

CLAIMS:

1. A method for automatically combining a digital image with text data, comprising:
 - (a) receiving electronic data comprising a digital image;
 - (b) automatically classifying the image according to a predetermined set of categories;
 - (c) automatically selecting text data from a repository that matches the category of the image according to a predetermined criterion.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the selected text data matches a predetermined recipient profile.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said selecting at (c) further comprises automatically selecting a recipient profile according to a predetermined criterion
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined criterion is the sender of the electronic data.
5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising automatically combining the image and the selected text data to form a combined document.
6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of automatically initiating printing of the combined document and sending the combined document.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving at (a) comprises receiving the electronic data over a network via at least one of electronic mail and a digital telephone network.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving at (a) further comprises requesting and receiving at least one of a recipient name and a recipient profile.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving at (a) further comprises testing the electronic data regarding at least one of authentication, authorization with respect to a potential recipient, and content of the image.
10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said classifying at (b) is

preceded by automatically placing the electronic data on a queue or schedule for classification.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the text data in the repository is classified according to the predetermined set of categories and wherein said selecting at (c) further comprises selecting text data being classified in the same category as the image.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting at (c) further comprises searching the repository for text data comprising a keyword associated with the category of the image.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting at (c) further comprises classifying the image according to a predetermined set of subcategories within a category.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic data further comprises image content information data and wherein said classifying at (b) further comprises extracting the image content information data.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the image content information data comprises one or more of positional and temporal information regarding the image, and wherein said classifying at (b) further comprises comparing at least one of the position and temporal information with a lookup table.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein said classifying at (b) further comprises extracting content information from the image.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein extracting content information from the image comprises applying at least one of a kernel image categorization method and a multi-classifier method.

18. An article of manufacture for use in a machine comprising:

a memory;

instructions stored in the memory for automatically combining a digital image with text data, the method comprising:

(a) receiving electronic data comprising a digital image;

(b) automatically classifying the image according to a predetermined set of

categories;

(c) automatically selecting text data from a repository that matches the category of the image according to a predetermined criterion.

19. An apparatus for automatically combining a digital image with text data, comprising:

a receiving means configured to receive electronic data comprising a digital image,

a classification means configured to automatically classify the image according to a predetermined set of categories, and

a selection means configured to automatically select text data from a repository that matches the category of the image according to a predetermined criterion.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a combining means configured to automatically combine the image and the selected text data to form a combined document.